

IN MEMORIAM

Emily Dinnin Smith

Miss Emily Dinnin Smith of Los Gatos, California became a member of the "Cooper Ornithological Club" in 1921. She was known to her contemporaries in the 1920s to 1970s simply as Miss Emily. Mild mannered, yet quietly forceful, she taught about nature, especially birds, to several generations of birders, bird banders, and college students. She was especially active in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the Western Bird Banding Association, and the California Native Plant Society.

The Cooper Ornithological Society recently received a substantial bequest from the estates of Miss Emily Smith and her sister, Miss Betty Smith. Miss Emily died of an Alzheimer-like disease 14 August 1972 in her 85th year. Miss Betty, who was more interested in literature and the fine arts, died 30 June 1987 in her 97th year. They had arranged that their estates would go to probate only when both were deceased.

Miss Emily was born to Herbert Smith and Emily Dinnin Smith in Connecticut on 10 November 1886. Dr. Herbert Smith served as Dean of the Yale Medical School. In 1913 the Smiths moved to the Santa Clara Valley in California and finally settled in Los Gatos.

A graduate of Vassar College in New York, Miss Emily was an Instructor at San Jose State University in the 1930s and 1940s. There she

joined with Dr. Gayle Pickwell in the production of many nature guides and booklets widely used in science education. In the early 1950s Miss Emily worked closely with Dr. Charles G. Sibley, then Professor of Ornithology at San Jose State. I and others at San Jose State University went to her for advice in matters ornithological in the 1950s and 1960s.

Miss Emily's special interest in swifts resulted in a paper "Black Swifts nesting behind a waterfall" in *The Condor* in 1928 and a couple paragraphs in A. C. Bent's 1940 account on the Northern Black Swift in his *Life Histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds, and Their Allies*. I remember well a 1950s field trip which included a sea cave on the coast north of Santa Cruz. She timed well our entry to the cave between waves at low tide. There in a moss-bordered nest on a ledge, well within the splash zone at high tide, we had our once-in-a-lifetime view of a half-grown Black Swift covered with black down.

The Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Society has established the Emily Smith Award Fund which will be used to provide awards for graduate students in ornithology.—L. RICHARD MEWALDT, 4150 Golf Drive, San Jose, CA 95127.